of Understanding with Ergo Energy Technologies Inc., Canada for the technology for setting up a Pilot Project for an *in-situ* Lignite Gasification Plan in Barmer District in Rajasthan. The project proposal is at a preliminary stage.

Differential in prices of petroleum products in States

*290.DR.A.K. PATEL:
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:'

(a) what are the reasons that the prices of petroleum products vary in different States and they are the highest in Gujarat; and

(b) the reasons for different oil companies selling at different prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Retail Selling Prices (RSP) of petrol and diesel vary from location to location due to difference in freight, sales tax, local taxes, octroi, other local levies and State specific irrecoverable levies. A comparison of RSP of petrol and diesel in Ahmedabad with the four metros is at Statement *(see* below).

At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies sell petrol and diesel at the same price at any particular location. However, private sector companies authorized to market these fuels are free to price them on the basis of their commercial considerations.

Statement

The Retail Selling Prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG as on 15th March, 2005 at four metros and Ahmedabad

Name of City	Petrol (Rs./litre)	Diesel (Rs./litre)	LPG(Dom)- (Rs./14.2 kg cylinder)
Mumbai	43.23	32.83	291.85
Delhi	37.84	26.28	281.60
Channai	41.25	29.30	288.15
Kolkata	40.89	28.72	309.65
Ahmedabad	41.11	29.75	315.40